



California Emergency Management Agency (Cal-EMA)
Region Emergency Operations Center (REOC)
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Region II
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
September 24, 2009, 10:00 AM

Meeting Notes

REGION II LEPC Members present:

Nabil Al-Hadithy – Berkeley CUPA, LEPC Chair

Sharon Lee, CA Dept. of Public Health

Michael Pixton, DTSC Response Unit, LEPC II Environmental Rep.

Cal-EMA Staff

Sandra McKenzie, CalEMA Coastal Region

Ron Olguin, Cal-EMA HQ, HMEP Grant Coordinator

Brian Abeel, Cal EMA HQ, Hazardous Materials Branch

Jeanine Gentis, CSTI, Training Branch (Teleconference)

Others present:

Monica Jackson, Sonoma County Department of Emergency Services

Chris Martin, CalTrans, State Hazardous Materials Operations

Scott Etzel, Dow Chemical, Pittsburg

1. Introduction

Nabil Al-Hadithy (Nabil), the LEPC II Chair, called the Region II Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting to order on September 24, 2009 at approx. 10:10 AM.

After an administrative housekeeping brief, introductions were made. A quorum was not established. The following meeting notes have been recorded for informational purposes.

Nabil queried the those present for additional agenda items or updates to share with the group. All members approved the agenda and the meeting proceeded.

2. Chairperson Report

A notice was distributed through the LEPC list regarding proposal for HazMat Commodity Study. Responses were received to include hazmat training opportunities. Further information was provided by Jeanine Gentis.

3. HazMat Training

Jeanine Gentis advised that due to furlough imposed on state agencies, CSTI is closed for three days each month. As a result, CSTI will either change training dates, or bring in local contractor can complete the training on the furlough dates each month. Doesn't believe that this will affect Region II as much as Regions I and IV. CSTI will continue to honor all funding and per diems at least through December. Concern is that if this continues through January, funding could be impacted and some per diems may be cut.

CSTI and Cal EMA will be hosting the National Association of Title Program Officials Conference (NASPO). CSTI is hosting the annual conference the week of May 3, 2010, at The Cliff Resort in Shell Beach. CSTI would like suggestions from local agencies on topics to be presented. Provide Jeanine with an outline or paragraph with proposed topics. A flyer will be distributed by CSTI. We would like to highlight the LEPC. State rates will be honored.

Railcar Training:

Scott Etzel advised of Railcar Training taking place in Oakland through TRANCAER on November 4 and 5th for those who could not attend the 'Continuing Challenge'. An email was distributed and the link on the TRANSCAER website contains further detail on the training. The training is awareness training on HazMats shipped in railcars, as well as the types of railcars, and how to stop leaks as a first responder.

4. HMEP Grant Update

Ron Olguin provided handouts that represent the Cal EMA representatives supporting the six (6) Statewide LEPC's. The list was updated on Aug. 28, 2009 to reflect that David Johnson as LEPC Chair for Region IV. Website for Cal EMA provide all information on CSTI training and HMEP grants and other activity that occurs within the Cal EMA, www.calema.ca.gov.

NASPO:

The acronym NASPO stands for National Program of State Title III Program Officials. NASPO mid-year conference has been scheduled to take place in Las Vegas on October 19-23. Ron will attend the conference and speak with Charles Rogoff, Federal Grant Administrator with the Federal Dept of Transportation. Government. Ron will send information to Nabil and Sandra on NASPO. State of California receives 1.6 million in grant monies.

Staff Update:

Dep. Chief Charles Hurley has left the HazMat Unit at Cal EMA and was offered a position as Fire Chief at the Oreville Fire Dept. We will miss his leadership and support.

HMEP Grants 08/09:

An email was distributed to Sandra and Nabil on 9/21 regarding the fourth quarter reports. There are several grants in the works right now that include the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Lake, and Humboldt and the City of Newark. All the fourth quarter reports are due by the 30th of Sept. 2009. If they have questions on filling out documents, etc. contact Ron Olguin.

HMEP Grants 09/10:

A second round of funds available right now. An email was distributed. There is additional funding not used, and chiefs have asked Ron to open up for a second round making funds available for those who wish to apply. The grant period is opened until Nov. 6, 2009. Ron will work with individuals on special projects. Currently there are two applications for LEPC II. For applicants that want to apply for funding to update Area Plans, the plan must be over three (3) years old. They will not receive grant approval for plans less than 3 years. Area plans over 3 years old must incorporate the changes pursuant to SB391, which became a mandate as of May, 2009. Jurisdictions may apply for funding to complete exercises.

Statewide CUPA/SERC/LEPC Meeting:

Brian Abeel provided an update on his position. He has transferred over to a position that Michael Warren had vacated. One of Michael's duties was to support the SERC for the Chair which was the Director, who is now Matt Bettenhausen, the Secretary of Cal EMA, and to

support the LEPC's by providing legislative updates and circulating to the chairs. In addition, Brian will be providing updates on training in addition to what Jeanine provides, and information on the HazMat Division activities such as team typing results specific to the regions.

Brian discussed the SERC/LEPC meeting that was held at the Continuing Challenge 2009, for the purpose of putting together a brief for Cal EMA executive staff to suggest proposals for reconstituting the SERC. The meeting was intended by LEPC Chairs, Cal EMA Liaisons, CalEPA Unified Program, CUPA Forum Board Members, and Federal Counterparts who attended the Continuing Challenge. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss pertinent issues and concerns regarding the SERC and LEPCs.

Brian pulled information that had already been collected from an unofficial meeting that was initially held at the 2005 Continuing Challenge. The SERC has not met since March 2002 and has been inactive. The 2005 meeting led to CA OES (now known as Cal EMA)/LEPC Quarterly Meetings which morphed into a Realignment Group consisting of representatives from:

- Cal EMA
- LEPC/First Responder
- CUPA
- CalEPA Unified Program,
- US EPA, and
- Industry

The Realignment Group looked into the California Implementation of Elements Necessary to the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (CALIENTE). Their goals were to:

- Identify legally required roles and responsibilities of the LEPCs and CUPAs related to the implementation of EPCRA
- Identify current implementation status of EPCRA,
- Make proposals/recommendations for improvement

The objectives supporting these goals were:

- Complete a summary of state and federal laws related to the implementation of EPCRA
- Complete a summary of the current implementation of EPCRA by both LEPCs and CUPAs
- Identify overlapping roles and responsibilities of CUPAs/PAs, LEPCs, and other hazmat emergency planning/coordination groups
- Complete a list of proposals/recommendations for improving the implementation of EPCRA in California

The Realignment Group developed several draft documents to achieve these goals. However, they were never finalized. Cal EMA will re-examine these documents to consider reconvening/reconstituting the SERC and potential LEPC restructuring.

5. R/R Commodity Study Proposal

Nabil is looking for a preplanning module that may be used within the hazmat area plan that could identify various procedures for response (e.g.: emergency response and capabilities, back-up responders, types of equipment used, etc.), as it relates to high-risk chemicals and response capability for the top 5-8 high risk chemicals. It should essentially list what responders are capable of responding to, what they are not capable of, and who would respond as back-up to

assist (such as private contractor or railroads). The document should essentially provide preplanning information on small, medium and large events, and the response capabilities of the railroads for each. Some of these issues are covered in the DOT Guidebooks. The best model here in the U.S. and North America is the CORA Plan. This is an in depth multi-page document. Scott is willing to work with the Region to develop a preplanning template. Scott advised that the railroads and shippers have put together programs that address security, security surveillance, and tamper resistant containers with an emphasis on accident prevention. When an accident occurs the best resource for any agency whether it be Berkeley, Oakland or Stockton is to call Chem Trek, as they get shippers involved and work with agencies to provide preplanning information. There are damage assessment aspects to the information, there are location considerations in relation to populations affected (e.g.: downtown Oakland or middle of central valley), and what resources are available. There may be some merit in a generic preplan as long as it is consistent with the ERG Guidebook.

Nabil will initiate further questioning to determine the benefits of having a generic plan. Scott and Nabil will discuss what type of things would be desired in a preplanning template that would be suitable for a local jurisdiction that focuses on inhalation hazardous chemicals, then proceed with development of a preplanning template. Nabil will initiate further input from the Region II LEPC participants to determine if this is workable, and get Ron Olguin to assist with funding through the HMEP grant. It was suggested by one of the members that the Port of Oakland be taken into consideration because they may have information on toxic inhalations moving by rail or truck. This information may be hard to get from the Port of Oakland. This may require authorization by the Port of Oakland Facility Security Officer (FSO) or Captain of the Port (COTP) for the San Francisco Bay Region. The Ports should not be considered until we determine what the railroads are doing.

Nabil will evaluate with input from the Region II LEPC stakeholder to determine the usefulness of a document over the next two weeks before deciding whether or not to apply for the funding to contract services to develop a template. Scott will send a web link from the National TranCAER website that shows documents on an 11-step planning and studies from different parts of the country.

6. Cal EMA Regional Activity Update

Sandra provided a brief update on emergency management activities. The region's primary focus has been to support the planning efforts underway as part of the Catastrophic Planning Grant Program (RCPGP). The RCPGP consists of funding that is administered through the Bay Area UASI for development of several local and regional plan templates that will serve as annexes to local and regional emergency operations plans. Six (6) subcommittees have been developed through the RCPGP to provide input on development of the plan templates. The region has assigned staff to participate on the subcommittees and to provide oversight in the development of the regional plan annexes to ensure that plans coincide with the existing Regional Emergency Coordination Plan (RECP). The plan annexes currently under development will address the following:

- Debris Removal- Greg Smith
- Mass Transportation/Evacuation
- Mass Fatality-TBD
- Mass Care and Sheltering
- Mass Care and Sheltering for Special Needs Populations
- Volunteer Management

- Donations Management
- Information Technology

7. **LEPC Member Report**

8. **Proposed Agenda items for next meeting**

None proposed

9. **Public Comment**

10. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm. The next meeting is scheduled December 17, 2009.